

## MONTROYA from page 10

Clawdy' together. I was jamming one night and John Mayall walked in so I did a bastardized version of 'All Your Love' and said that it was for John's birthday. He took the board mix of this session and later called me to replace Mick Taylor when he left John Mayall's Bluesbreakers to play with Bob Dylan. With the likes of following people like Eric Clapton, Peter Green and Mick Taylor what a dream come

true! I've got to at least try. Even if I stay for a couple of months, at least I'm in the record book." Coco continues: "Kal David was the other guitarist for a year and then John brought Walter Trout into the band with us and I had Albert Molinaro from 'Guitars 'R Us' put a Strat guitar together for me. Walter later went on to start his own band and I ended up staying with John for almost ten years. Here's something again that I didn't look for—it just

happened." During the breaks in Mayall's tours, Coco formed his own band and at one time had his then girlfriend, Debbie Davies, playing guitar as well. Albert Collins called Coco to tour again briefly and Debbie was included.

Coco Montoya's current band has Dover Weinberg on keyboards, Steve Evans on bass and Randy Hayes on drums and plays as many gigs a year as he can. He's having a Mike Lipe guitar built with the amazing

Amalfitano pickups. Coco's latest CD, "Dirty Deal" is available at Amazon.com. He will be performing at the Irvine Lake Blues Festival on the same bill with fellow Blues musicians Walter Trout and Tommy Castro on Sunday June 24th. Just call 1-866-468-3399 for advance tickets as this is going to be a spectacular event. Make sure you stop by the Southland Blues Magazine's booth and say hello—we love seeing our subscribers at the festivals.

## CD REVIEWS from page 14

in a vivid display of Mississippi Delta blues and the genuine feeling that it brings. Elsewhere, Palmer rolls out her boogie-woogie stride for a fun night of action, oftentimes paring her orchestra down to just piano trio with singer.

-- Jim Santella



### CISCO Topsy Gypsy Self-produced

With a high, emotional vocal persuasion, Cisco Robles sings a program of eleven originals and one Jimi Hendrix cover on this debut album. He's worked extensively in R&B, reggae and rock music; even writing and producing rap acts. For the past five years, however, he's wandered the Southland blues circuit with just one thing on his

mind: interpreting contemporary blues/rock with his high-voltage guitar in tow. As long as he continues to color his songs with that lightning-like guitar, he'll impress everywhere he goes.

Robles' wife Chaeya sings two of the album's selections, including the Hendrix song "Ezy Rider." Down home blues gets pushed aside in places, so that he can turn his attention to blues/rock and his fiery guitar wizardry. However, the album contains several down-to-earth blues themes that sizzle. "Hotz 4U," with Chaeya on the lead vocal, "Don't Judge a Book By its Cover," "Bed Style Blues" and "The Blues Club" leave concentrated doses of authentic blues in their wake. Several other selections settle down comfortably for an honest look at blues' genuine side, while the emphasis remains with Robles' expressive guitar. The album is dedicated to the memory of a local businessman and friend who owned Topsy Gypsy, a clothing store in Huntington Beach.

-- Jim Santella



### VARIOUS ARTISTS Crucial Acoustic Blues Alligator

With Alligator releasing three more "best of" samplers in their *Crucial Blues* series this month, the total comes to nine, with *Crucial Acoustic Blues*, *Crucial Rockin' Blues* and *More Crucial Guitar Blues* joining the previous list of winners. This is one time when "best of" means what it says. With this acoustic album, we get Lonnie Mack and Stevie Ray Vaughan mixin' it up on "Oreo Cookie Blues," Buddy Guy and Junior Wells rolling through an interpretation of "High Heel Sneakers" and Carey and Lurrie Bell with "Stop Running 'Round." And that's just the first three tracks. They're each mighty special. We sure do miss Carey Bell's pleasant voice and soulful harp.

When Koko Taylor and Keb' Mo' slow it down with "The Man Next Door," they make you feel as if you're traveling with the early bluesmen as they ride the rails from town to town. Both sing this Taylor original with passion. As Kenny Neal and Billy Branch do "Baby Bee," the blues harmonica takes on the character of a storyteller who's in touch with the world.

"The Dirty Dozens" features Johnny Jones with Billy Boy Arnold in a swinging boogie affair filled with double entendre humor, while "Sloppy Drunk" features Saffire - The Uppity Blues Women with a serious look at problems that face all of us at one time or another. Sonny Terry brings it home with "So Tough With Me," which includes Johnny Winter, Willie Dixon and Styve Homnick in a slow and sentimental stroll.

The various pairings include guitarist Bob Margolin with singer Nappy Brown on "Down in the Alley," a mournful blues that recalls the history of this music in general and some mighty fine talent in particular.

-- Jim Santella